pertaining to Golden Quadrilateral Project. However, it is expected that the projects would be substantially completed by December 2005. It is also estimated that the actual expenditure on the project will not differ much from the estimated cost, allowing for escalation.

(d) The steps taken to expedite the project are given in Statement.

Statement

Steps taken by the Government to expedite the completion of the Golden Quadrilateral

(a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants/Independent Engineers, Project Directors, National Highways Authority of India officials at Headquarters.

(b) State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-ministerial and Central-States issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges etc.

(d) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.

Effects of import of goods on SSIs

478. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries in the country are put to hardship due to indiscriminate import of goods especially from some Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the steps that have been taken to mitigate their hardship?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has no information on whether any goods are being imported indiscriminately from some Asian countries and if such import of goods has put small scale industries to any hardship.

(b) With a view to providing protection to domestic industries, including small scale industries, the Government has put in place an appropriate trade defence mechanism, including safeguards against surge in imports and anti-dumping measures. Several measures have also been taken to assist the domestic small scale industries in technological upgradation and marketing so that they can face increasing global competition.

Package for SSIs

†479. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any special package for speedy development of Small-Scale Industries of the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have formulated any scheme to provide loans to small entrepreneurs on relaxed conditions, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any special scheme for establishing small-scale industries after providing training to youth, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of unemployed youths who received training under these schemes during the last few years and the number out of them who have established their Small-Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) A package for promotion of small enterprises is under consideration of the Government.

(b) Credit to small scale industries (SSI) is covered under the priority lending programme of the scheduled commercial banks. In order to further facilitate collateral free loan to small scale industries upto Rs. 25 lakh, the Government implements the Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.